Reviewing the Policy on Cinema Industry

1038. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have called for a review of the State Government's Policy on the cinema industry;

(b) whether a recent survey has revealed that there is a need for more infrastructure, simplification of licensing, rationalisation of taxes etc. in order to develop a healthy and vibrant industry; and

(c) if so, what has been the reaction of the State Governments on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has broght out a report on the "Indian Entertainment Industry—Strategy and Vision". The report analysis the present status and future potential growth of various sectors of entertainment industry and suggest measures to realize the same.

A Committee for development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up comprising State Ministers for Information and Public Relations from nine States, with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting as the Chairperson and the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting as the Vice-Chairperson to suggest a policy framework, both at the Centre and in the States, for realizing the potential of the entertainment sector.

Allowing foreign print media

1039. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to allow the foreign print media in the country reversing the 1955/56 cabinet decision;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing foreign print media;

(c) whether there is any thinking going on in her Ministry to amend article 19 of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (c) No Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Strengthening of TV network

1040. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government to strengthen the network in the main towns as well as in rural Assam as a supplement to newly inaugurated twenty four hour service project;

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The North East Channel, which began 24 hours transmission on 27.12.2000, is a satellite channel and its programmes can be viewed throughout North East through cable network/dish antennae system. Prasar Bharati has informed that terrestrial transmitters are not envisaged to be set up for relay of the North East channel. For expansion of DDI services in Assam, Prasar Bharati is setting up a transposer at Guwahati.

Cultural invasion in the country

1041. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of programmes which are against the ethos of Indian culture are beaming in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have directed DTH operators to adhere to the cultural values and traditions of the country and also propose to take action against violators;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(d) other steps Government propose to take to check cultural invasion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) The programmes of satellite